IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 – 9 (cancelled).

Claim 10. (original): A method of heat pipe wick manufacture comprising the steps of

positioning metal felt adjacent to a metal substrate,

positioning a porous metal exoskeleton member adjacent to the metal felt

whereby the metal felt is between the metal substrate and the porous metal exoskeleton member, and

applying heat sufficient to cause the metal felt to adhere to both the porous metal exoskeleton member and the metal substrate.

Claim 11. (previously presented): The method of claim 10 further comprising a step selected from the group consisting of

applying brazing material between the metal felt and metal substrate,

applying brazing material between the metal felt and the porous metal exoskeleton member, and

applying brazing material between the metal felt and metal substrate as well as between the metal felt and the porous exoskeleton member

prior to the step of applying heat.

Claim 12. (previously presented): The method of claim 10 further comprising the step of grit blasting elements selected from the group consisting of

the metal substrate,

the porous metal exoskeleton member, and

both the metal substrate and the metal exoskeleton member

prior to the step of applying heat.

Claim 13. (previously presented): The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of grit blasting elements selected from the group consisting of

the metal substrate,

the porous metal exoskeleton member, and

both the metal substrate and the metal exoskeleton member

prior to the step of applying heat.

Claim 14. (previously presented): The method of claim 12 wherein a temperature of 1100 C is attained by the metal felt, the metal substrate, and the porous metal exoskeleton member during the step of applying heat.

Claim 15. (previously presented): The method of claim 13 wherein a temperature of 1100 C is attained by the metal felt, the metal substrate, and the porous metal exoskeleton member during the step of applying heat.

Claim 16 (cancelled)

Claim 17. (currently amended): ~~The~~ A method of ~~Claim 16~~ heat pipe wick manufacture ~~further~~ comprising the steps of

positioning wick material adjacent to a rigid substrate,

positioning a rigid porous exoskeleton member adjacent to the wick material whereby the wick material is between the rigid substrate and the rigid porous exoskeleton member, and

bonding the wick material to both the rigid substrate and the rigid porous exoskeleton member.

Claim 18. (original): The method of claim 17 wherein said step of bonding is accomplished using an adhesive applied in a single step after the wick material, the rigid substrate and the rigid porous exoskeleton member have been assembled.

Claim 19. (currently amended): The method of claim ~~18~~ 17 wherein said step of bonding is accomplished using adhesive applied in more than one step in the course of assembly of the wick material, the rigid substrate and the rigid porous exoskeleton member.